



HONORING THE INNOVATIVE IDEAS,  
PRACTICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF MONTANA ARTISTS.



montana **arts** council  
an agency of state government

## Program Description

In order to foster environments where the innovation and creativity of artists are valued and celebrated, this program rewards Montana artists who have demonstrated:

- Extraordinary innovation in their work and artwork
- Outstanding originality and dedication in their creative pursuits
- A marked capacity for self-direction

## How We Define Innovation

Innovation is the act of introducing something new or different to further an artist's vision and practice. This can mean new methods, applications, perspectives, elements, forms, materials and/or processes that result from study, experimentation or experiences. Innovation involves acting on creative ideas to make some specific and tangible difference. To read more about concepts that the arts council considers innovative, go to the Montana Arts Council's website <[http://art.mt.gov/artists/artists\\_innovation.asp](http://art.mt.gov/artists/artists_innovation.asp)> and click on FAQs.

## Award Rounds and Application Deadlines

*Round One: 2009-2010* -- up to ten awards of \$3,000 each will be distributed over two years (up to five awards per year). Artists may apply only once per round. There are no restrictions on how this money is used. However, there is a post-award activity requirement (see the Award Expectation information below).

### Visual Arts: 2009

Applications will be accepted February 15, 2009, through May 1, 2009, 11:59 p.m. MDT.

### Literary and Performing Arts: 2010

The application process for literary and performing arts awards will occur during MAC's FY 2010 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010). Exact deadlines and timeframes will be announced in *State of the Arts* and on MAC's website in the summer of 2009.

Applicants whose work and artwork bridges both performing and visual arts must decide whether their artwork is primarily performance or visual in content or impact, and apply in that category. For a more detailed listing of visual arts categories go to MAC's website listed above.

**If you do not have reasonable access to a computer or high speed connection, please contact Kristin Han Burgoyne (406) 444-6449 for assistance before April 1, 2009.**

***In order to support the State of Montana's ongoing efforts to reduce paper waste, this application can only be completed online.***

## Criteria

1. Artistic innovation and exceptional creativity in completed artworks or collaborations.
2. Artistic excellence and professionalism.
3. A plan for a simple, low-cost or no-cost activity to take place during the grant cycle that will convey the artist's innovative process and work to other Montanans.
4. A skillfully prepared grant application. (Only the information and artwork samples provided in the application will be considered, so artwork samples should be high-quality and narrative answers should be articulate and complete.)

## Award Expectation

In order to promote the connection between the arts and innovation, awardees will be required to describe a simple, low-cost or no-cost activity to be conducted during the grant period (up to one year from the receipt of the award) that will convey the artist's innovative work and artwork (and convey MAC's sponsorship of the award) to other Montanans.

This activity can be an open studio session to which the public – or a specific group of Montanans – is invited, or a local workshop, a lecture or demonstration, etc. It could be an activity scheduled online, or at a school, a service organization or library, for instance, or as part of some ongoing series of events. The activity can involve other artists and/or organizations. It can be also something that was previously planned, as long as it takes place within the grant period which is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 for Visual Arts.

## What you will Need for the Application

### Answers to a Narrative Section

Artists are asked to respond to the following:

Regarding your work and artwork (*maximum - 500 words per answer*):

1. Describe what innovations you have made in your artwork and/or your process.
2. Describe how the artwork samples you submitted illustrate the evolution of your work. (See Artwork Samples information below.)

Regarding public access to your work and artwork (*maximum - 100 words*):

3. Describe a low-cost or no-cost activity to take place during the grant cycle that will convey your innovative work and artwork to other Montanans.

### Artwork Samples

Artwork samples should help illustrate your narrative responses. Artists are encouraged to provide images that illustrate the evolution of their artwork – early, middle, present and in-progress – demonstrating innovation in the art-making process. (However, keep in mind that the award is ultimately based on finished artwork.)

Applicants must submit **a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty (20) quality digital images or media clips** of their artwork. Artists may include artwork samples in any combination of: basic images or media footage, details, alternate views, the art-making process and working with others. Technical information and suggested specs for images are available on MAC's website.

### Additional Information

Applicants will be asked to submit a brief Artist Statement, a resume or bio and a \$10 processing fee in the format required by the online application process.

### Selection and Juries

The decision for selecting awardees is based on finished artwork. Only the information and artwork samples provided in the application will be considered. Applicants will be identified by name and all information submitted is public information.

Juries are comprised of three to five arts professionals who have expertise in the arts disciplines under consideration and are selected by the members of the Montana Arts Council. Additional jurors may include legislators and/or Governor's staff. All jurors' decisions are **forwarded as recommendations**, and the final allocation of all awards will be made by the members of the Montana Arts Council.

## Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from artists seriously pursuing their art career, whether they are emerging, mid-career or established artists, or a group of collaborating artists. However, high school students and degree-seeking college students (graduate or undergraduate) are not eligible to apply.

Artists who have received MAC fellowship awards in the past are eligible to apply for this award.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Montana. (Residency requires having lived in Montana for at least one full year prior to the application deadline.)

Group applicants are eligible for only one award. Each individual artist within the group must consent to being part of the application, and a lead applicant must be identified.

Artists may only apply once per round. Artists applying as part of a group are not eligible to also apply as individual artists.

Montana Arts Council staff or members of its current governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship - by blood, marriage or shared household - are not eligible to apply for this award.

## If Selected for an Award for Visual Arts, you will:

- Be notified by June 30, 2009.
- Receive a **contract** and **final report form**. Sign and return the contract immediately, which also verifies your eligibility.
- Upon MAC's receipt and processing of your signed contract, **receive a check for \$2,500** (the remaining \$500 will be issued upon receipt of your final report).
- Provide your **photo, brief** (1/2 page) **biography** and **written permission to reproduce artwork images** for MAC to use for publicity and informational purposes within 14 days of the award notice.  
(Re: submission of any images of children's faces associated with recognizable landmarks, you must provide all appropriate **photo rights and permissions**.)
- **Complete** and **return the final report** no later than June 30, 2010, and be issued a check for the remaining \$500.

## Application and Fees

This grant application will be administered through **SlideRoom.com**, an electronic submissions system requiring a high-speed internet connection.

Before you begin, please read the Detailed Guide to the Online Process and FAQs (printable pdf files) on our website.

A \$10 processing fee must be paid at the time the application is submitted online. This can be done by credit or debit card. Applicants applying as a group pay only one fee per application, not per artist.

Reminder: If you do not have reasonable access to a computer and/or high speed connections, please contact Kristin Han Burgoyne for assistance at (406-444-6449) before April 1, 2009.

## Submit the Application

- Go to the Montana Arts Council's website home page **www.art.mt.gov** and follow the link to the Artist's Innovation Award page. From there you will be offered links to the Detailed Guide to the Online Process, FAQs, and the portal to the actual application website.
- Read the Detailed Guide to the Online Process and gather your materials for your application before you begin.
- If you need to take a break during the application process, your online application is automatically saved and you may return to it at any time.
- You must complete all fields in the online application.
- Your application won't be finalized until you select the **Submit Portfolio** button.